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RHIZNE

TEN
RHYNE.

An Account of the Cape of GOOD HOPE and the Hottentotes, the Natives of that Country, by William Ten Rhyne, Native of Deventry, Physician in Ordinary, and a Member of the Council of Justice, to the Dutch East-India Company; with some Animadversions upon the same, by Henry Secreta a Zevorzit. Translated from the Latin Original, printed at Schaffhausen in Switzerland.

THE ninth of *October* 1673 we sail'd with S. S. W. wind, steering our course S. E. we discover'd land at thirty-two degrees, it being a very serene day at sea, but foggy (as usually it is) as we approached the shore, and sounding the depth we found a hundred and twenty fathoms water. But whilst we were flattering ourselves with hopes of coming to the so long expected shore, the wind turning against us, to's'd us up and down in the sea, till the thirteenth of the same month; then failing with a S. E. wind, we came to an anchor in a sandy bottom, in the bay of *Saldanha*, extending itself in form of a half-moon, and of a quite different position than what it is represented in the maps, either by the carelessness of the engraver, or ignorance of the author, having no other congruity with their description; except that the bay had a pointed kind of a promontory at both ends; but the islands are neither so numerous nor of the same situation (differing four points in the compass) as they represent them, and appear under various colours. Being very desirous to refresh ourselves after so long a fatigue, the captain and I and the factor went ashore on this point of *Africa*, accompanied only by some few seamen that managed our boat; casting about my eyes with a great deal of eagerness in this country, unknown to us before, I saw a vast ridge of mountains, which incloses the bay with many hanging rocks, which being well stored with divers sorts of plants, seem'd to imitate the *Hanging Gardens* of *Semiramis*, or *Alcinoe*, and appeared to me like the *Elysian fields*, tho' in a desert: I gather'd a good quantity of these plants, in order to present them to our *Herbalists*. I was surpriz'd to see in this desert such a vast

quantity of aloes, which, I believe, could amount to no less than some thousand pounds weight. Night made us return to our crazy ship, and as we were returning from the land, we observed the sea near the rocky shore almost cover'd with haddocks; being extremely fatissied we had escaped this without the least danger, as having in full remembrance what happen'd to eight *Dutchmen* sometime before, who being employ'd in the pursuit of some sea-horses, were cut to pieces by the natives.

Being got safe aboard, we set sail the next morning again, with a fair N. W. wind, and pass'd by the *Dassen* island, The Dassen defended only by a small garrison; it has sen isle. got its name from the great number of sea-rabbits taken there, and produces some pasture for sheep.

The 14th of *October* towards evening we came to an anchor, with a moderate gale from S. to W. and twenty-three fathoms water; the next day, viz. the 15th, the wind at N. W. we repass'd in sight of the *Rabbit* isle, about eight leagues distant from our fort on the *Cape of Good Hope*, The Rabbit isle. eight from the *Dassen* isle, and about fifteen from the bay of *Saldanha*, according to the mensuration of the maps, having a high rock to be seen at a great distance; there several exil'd prisoners were employ'd in burning of muscle-shells, to make lime for the island. This isle produces abundance of *Chameleons*, lesser than those of the *Indies*, as also all sorts of insects, serpents, and spiders as big as a man's fist.

About four a clock in the afternoon we discover'd the *Table Bay*, having lost abundance of men in this voyage; and being invited the next day to dine with the governor, as we were rowing towards the sandy *African* shore we were intangled among These are describ'd by Mr. Rochford in his history of the American vast islands.

Their arrival at the Cape of Good Hope.

The bay of Saldanha.

vast quantity of Sea Alkaner, commonly called Brembastin (a plant of that bigness that one single one would have filled our boat) a certain mark to those that approach the African coast near the Cape of Good Hope, as are likewise a certain kind of small whitish sea-gulls. Besides the many other reasons we had to be extremely delighted with the sight of land, after so tedious a voyage, the novelty of a place so little known among the ancients, did not a little raise our curiosity to make the best inquiry we could of this country. All what they say material upon this head tends only to this; that a certain emperor coming from the Mountains of the Moon to the Cape of Good Hope, erected an empire here; which being afterwards divided into four kingdoms were

known by the name of *Measpathu*.

I will not pretend to trace the whole foundation of their history, having confined my self to the narrow limits of a journal; whether these nations owe their original to *Cham* the son of *Noah*, or to certain *Arabians* (the posterity of *Shem*) that pass'd into *Africk*, or whether some of the natives of *Africk*, grown numerous by degrees, and not able to subsist in such numbers in a barren soil, sent certain colonies to this uttermost point of *Africk*; to trace, I say, these matters, being beyond our scope, we will content ourselves with giving you an account of their manner of living and commerce, after we have told you something of its situation and constitution.

See Hornius orbis politicus D. The ancients had but a very obscure knowledge of Africa, called by them Libya.

C H A P. I.

Of the situation of the Cape of Good Hope.

THE promontory known by the name of the Cape of Good Hope, is situated at the southernmost point of *Africk*. Its longitude, in respect of the streights of *Gibraltar*, is 39 degrees 25 minutes; and its latitude, in respect to the *Hesperian Promontory*, or *Gourdasu* (known by the name of *Cape Verde*) 34 deg. 30 min.

It was discover'd by *Vasco de Gama*, 1498. (by the encouragement of *John*, then king of *Portugal*) who met there nothing but cragged mountains, as high as *Olympus* it self, scarce producing any thing for the sustenance of human life: Those unfortunate wretches, who are obliged to inhabit here, having scarce any thing to feed upon, but what is produced with a great deal of pains, in a barren soil and very ill climate; affording scarce any thing but brambles and briars, wherewith the mountains are cover'd on all sides. As there are few plains, so there grows but little corn; the only plains of note are, that known by the name of *Rachaley Plain* (or the field of battle) being about three leagues in compass, and the other called, by the *Dutch*, *Buffles Yacht*, or the *Buffles Plain*, seated upon the ascent of a high mountain; whether beyond that the country be plain or mountainous is not known hitherto.

The mountain that lies close by our part is call'd the *Table Mount*, from its flatness on the top, and serves for a guide to the mountaineers in those parts. Its height is reckon'd to be about five leagues. Certain it is (as I found by my own experience) that its ascent is very steep, for it cost me a hearty sweat before we came to the top of it; being obliged to pass in my way up vast multitudes of various shrubs and plants,

and among the rest saw a whole forest of the laky *Jalmitre* (the roots whereof grew crosswise, like a net-work) extending it self in two branches to the foot of the mountain, stor'd with prodigious numbers of baboons. In our return (towards evening) we were sadly pester'd, or rather frighted, with a kind of fiery meteor, which seem'd to move in the air like large sparks of fire; I endeavour'd to catch them with my hands, but finding them not palpable, I was convinced that they were sulphurous meteors engender'd in the fenns, not unlike the sulphurous excrement we see in the night-time pass thro' the air.

The next adjacent mountain is call'd the *Lyon's Mount*, from the shape which resembles that beast, not from the roaring of the winds (like a lion) as *Mercator* would have it, who affirms, that this cape is subject to such frequent and terrible tempests, that no body, unless in case of the highest necessity, dares to cast anchor here, whereas it is now sufficiently known, that this cape serves the *European* ships for a constant place of refreshment, and a safe port; tho' it must be own'd, that this coast is much infested by storms.

Divers rivers are, as it were, the product of these mountains. The first is called the *Butter* river. (2.) The *Kaffernal's* river. (3.) The *Mountain* river. (4.) The *Endless* river; it rises in the mountains, but its extent is unknown hitherto. (5.) The *Broad* river, extremely pleasant, by reason of the many delightful trees that stand upon its banks, but very shallow. (6.) The *Fenny* river; all which have very clear, sweet and wholesome waters, their springs being purify'd by the heat of the climate.

And is a corrupt Malayan word.

The Table Mount.

The Lyon's Mount.

Their rivers.

The

TEN
RHYNE.
The East-
India com-
pany's
garden.

The 1st of *November* we took a view of the company's garden, which furnishes the ships that come to anchor here, with all sorts of refreshments, where we saw whole walks and orchards of lemons, citrons and orange trees, parted by rosemary and laurel hedges, not inferior in height to most of our *European* trees. A pleasant brook having its rise at the foot of the adjacent mountain, waters this garden, and slides its current among the green hedges.

From hence casting my eyes towards the adjacent mountains, I could plainly discern (tho' at a considerable distance) the original cause of the south-east wind, which put me in mind of the mountains, where *Aeolus* is said to have his seat, and detain the winds in prison. For it is observable, that whenever thick clouds appear on and about the tops of the adjacent high mountains, they are the infallible fore-runners of severe storms, which are more or less strong, according to the extent, thickness, or position of the clouds; of this I have taken frequent notice in the clouds, that us'd to arise upon the table-mount, which were always follow'd by heavy and long tempests.

Thus, it is certain, that tho' the stars never vary in their course, they don't communicate the same quality to the air; it having been observ'd, that at the same time there blows quite another wind afoar, as there does at sea; nay, what is more, two or three different winds blow at once in different parts of the bay, all which must be attributed to the different position of the mountains, in respect to the several parts of the bay. Nothing is more common here, than to find a certain mountain near the table-mountain (called from thence the *Devil's Mount*) to be all over stormy, whilst the circumjacent country is blest with fair and calm weather.

The De-
vil's
Mount.

Thence it is that I am verily persuaded, that in case our sailors would make more exact observations for the future, of the different effects of the various situations of places, our navigation might be founded upon more certain rules than now it is; which makes them have recourse to unknown causes, and the instability of the tides in certain places. For what other reasons can be alledged for these constant winds (called *Monsoons*) but the high mountains which are constantly cover'd with snow, it being certain, that these winds continue to blow whilst the snows are melting; there being no other cause to be alledged in these places where the wind blows always from one corner, or changes but once a year, than the distinction of the mountains, or the annual concourse of the sun. It must however be confess'd, that such spacious fenns,

the receptacles of vapours, may not a little contribute towards the winds.

Therefore our seamen would do well to observe the different constitutions and situations of places, with the same care as they do commonly the tides, or return and reflux of the sea, which vary according to the situations of the bays, havens, or capes; of this variation I had sufficient experience in our passage through the channel, betwixt the port of *St. Malo*, on the *French* shoar, and the isle of *Wight*, occasioned by a ridge of rocks near cape *La Hague*, on the coast of *Normandy*. But the discussion of this spinous question concerning these *Monsoons*, or certain variations of the winds, may not only depend (as well near home as in far distant places) on the sun's approach to, or removal from these parts, but also from the different seasons of the year.

But it is a much greater secret to know the true origin of the continual south-east winds, which blowing almost without intermission in divers parts of the world, and especially on the *Cape of Good Hope*, we may address ourselves to *Oedipus* himself, to find out the different situations of the mountains in reference to the plains, which occasions these winds.

If **Descartes*, when he set up for a re-
former of philosophy, had been convin-
ced of these experiments, he would not have
been put to the trouble to have his whole
recourse to the moon; for, as the effects of
nature don't depend on general causes, so
it is with the tides, or flux and reflux of the
seas, which cannot be truly explained in all
its circumstances, by the hypothesis of *Des-
cartes*; there being a vast difference betwixt
these tides on the coast of *Genoa*, and on
the coast of *Tuscany*; in the *Baltick Sea*,
they are very different from both; and are
most violent in the gulph of *Jaqueta*, in
the channel near *Nova Franchia*, or *Nevé
France*, and in the straits of *Bahama* in
the bay of *Mexico*. The same might be
said of his hypothesis of the magnetick vir-
tue, were it not that our purpose is confined
to the description of the rivers, mountains,
and other things worth our observation in
this part of *Africk*.

* Princ.
Philos.
Part 4.
Sect. 49.
And Isaac
Vossius de
motu ma-
rium.

About five leagues beyond our fort is the *Salt-Bay*, having got its name from the vast quantity of salt that is digg'd near it, and therefore may rather be reckon'd of the kind of stone-salt than of sea-salt; it does not always keep the same figure; and tho' it be cut out of the ground in vast pieces, yet is it easily reduced to powder; it is generally white in the oar, though sometimes it proves blackish, but is soon whitened by the heat of the sun in the summer-season; it is somewhat more pungent than our com-

mon

Probl.
Sec. 23.
Probl. 21.

mon salt, but nevertheless as proper for use. Perhaps the experiment try'd in *Aristotle's* time might take place here with good suc-

cess, viz. That if you dig near the sea shore, to meet at first with fresh water; and if you dig deeper, with salt water. TEN RHYME.

C H A P. II.

Of the four-legg'd beasts.

* I have seen some of these creatures of a prodigious bigness. says Plin. l. 8. c. 25. and 26.

THESE mountainous desarts being more adapted for wild ravenous beasts than men, abundance of lions, elephants, rhinocerots, tygers, or rather panthers, wolves, elks, sea-horses, * wild horses, buffaloes, wild boars, wild dogs, baboons, porcupines, hedge-hogs, lynxes, flags, badgers, otters, hares, and wild asses of a delicious colour, with white streaks all over their bodies; goats, wild goats, evecks, some finely spotted, some of an ash colour; buck goats which leap from rock to rock; wild dogs and wild cats like tygers; a certain kind of foxes, commonly call'd jackalls,

and a few of these creatures call'd by them *tamandua graca*, and by the *Dutch*, pismire-eaters; † but are not so big as those of *Brazil*. That a prodigious number of these creatures harbour in these mountains, may be gather'd from hence, that a few hunters belonging to the governor of the fort, do take sometimes many thousand weight of them (especially of sea-horses and elks) at once; a convincing argument how much *Aristotle* was mistaken, when he says *, That *Africk* produces no wild boars, stags, nor wild goats. † See Marc-grav. Hist. l. 6. c. 4. * Hist. Anim. l. 8. c. 28.

C H A P. III.

Of their birds.

See Rochefort lib. 1. cit. p. 133.

OF birds, they have also vast numbers, and of divers colours, viz. ostriches, peacocks, cranes, black storks, herns, geese, bittourns, ducks, *Guinea* cocks and hens, teals, felfares, cormorants, didappers, fenducks, pochards, penguicks, partridges red and grey, pheasants, lapwings, nightingales, snipes, but these very small, owls,

and millions of sea-gulls, † martinets, and swallows of various colours, colybrides, birds that suck a certain knotted plant, not unlike a pellican (describ'd by me elsewhere, likewise by Mr. *Rochefort* and Mr. *Marc-grave*.) The *French* call it *Flammant*, and the *Dutch*, *Flaniteen*, after the *Portugueses*; with various feathers standing up an end. † Pliny describes these birds erroneously with-out legs.

C H A P. IV.

Of their fishes.

* See Marc-grave, l. 4. c. 12.

THE sea and rivers of this cape, afford also various kinds of fishes, viz. sea-lions, sea-rabbets, a certain fish call'd *Guapervas* by the *Brasilians*, whales of a peculiar kind, call'd *Vratcapers*, or finfishes by the *Dutch*; lampreys, trouts, salmons, thornback, mullets, mussels, gilthead, eels, and two different sorts of carps; the first kind is commonly known by the name of *Hottentots-fish*, because the natives extremely delight in it, they being of excellent taste, and cover'd all over with thick scales; the other kind is also a very delicious fish, call'd *Stone-broeksem*. They have also a kind of fish like dogs, * call'd *Cassan* by the

Portugueses; bristlers, lobsters, crab-fishes, crampfish, mussels, vrinclles, cuttles, and among the rest a certain fish call'd the *Swimmerly Parepus* and *Slautilus* by *Pliny*: but my design of keeping myself within the limits of an epitome, will not permit me to give you a particular account of all; I will only add, that one day as I was walking along upon the very brink of the sea-shore, to examine the several products of the sea, I did light upon some small creatures sticking to the rocks very close, with their feet, representing by the excretion of their fibres, our roses, whence they are call'd by the *Dutch*, *Klipperjen*, or *Roeckroses*.

TEN
RHYNE.

C H A P. V.

Of the insects or venomous animals.

THESE are numberless on the *Cape of Good Hope*; the most noted are *Spanish-flies*, butter-flies, glow-worms, and locusts of divers kinds; cornworms of divers colours, and spiders with many legs, of the bigness of a man's fist; ants or pismires that bury themselves under the food they have gather'd; I saw whole millions of them in heaps on the mountains.

See Roch-
fort, p.
123 and
129.

Their serpents here differ in bigness, shape and venom; the vipers are as large again here as in *France*; salamanders, scorpions, long ear-wigs, lizards, and toads: discoursing one day with the governor of the fort about these toads, and how surpriz'd I was to observe them three times bigger than ouas, with two long feet trailing behind, like otters; he shew'd me a certain sea-fish full of prickles, not unlike a toad, with long feet join'd to the outside of the belly; he told me, that these did bring forth the toads, which I was sufficiently convinc'd of afterwards by my

own experience: I remember, that when I dissected one of these creatures, in the presence of the governor, I found its lungs very large, but the other like those of ordinary toads and frogs.

The rest of these kind of creatures either did not come to my sight, or, if they did, it was superficially, that in that short time I stay'd there, I could not take exact notice of them. To conclude, I am inclined to *Aristotle's* opinion *, viz. That *Asia* produces the fiercest beasts, *Europe* the strongest, and *Africk* the most different kinds; which questionless has given birth to the proverb, *That Africk always affords some new thing or another*. For the want of fresh water in this hot climate, draws in the wild beasts in great numbers to the banks of the river; they copulate promiscuously, and so ingender several new kinds. But this must be understood of the desarts of *Africk*, which otherwise is water'd by many great rivers.

C H A P. VI.

Of their plants.

BUT as my genius did lead me more to the knowledge of plants, than any other thing to be met with here, I was very curious in examining such of them, as this (though otherwise barren country) produces in great plenty. Near the seashore I met with abundance of the *Kali*, (a herb so highly esteem'd both among the ancients and modern authors), as I found in the vallies great store and variety of secret broom-heath, of divers sorts, of sea-green, dog-onion, and daffidil, with heads of the bigness of an ordinary man's head; some whereof I have sent long ago into *Holland*; in the night they have a smell like the *geranium* or *storkbill*.

Among the mountains you find a certain tree here (more fragrant than all the rest) the wood whereof is so hard, that the *Dutch* have given it the name of iron-wood, but is used only for fuel. These mountains also produce whole woods of shrubs, abundance of aloes, and very good scammony; in the gardens they have your *Indian* nightshade, and a most delicious kind of melons (call'd erroneously water-lemons by the

Dutch) affording the best refreshment in the world, to the ships that touch here in their passage to or from the *Indies*.

See Roch-
fort, p.
104.

It is observable, that the lower palm-tree (call'd *Piram* by the *Malayans*, and *Armifas* by the *Arabians*) as well as the coco-tree, never bear blossom without, but only within the two tropicks; and that (if those who speak by experience may be credited) in those countries that are nearest to the equinoctial they thrive best, and their fruits prove either lesser or bigger, according as they are nearer or more remote from the said equinoctial line, and decrease both in quantity and quality accordingly. Thus you find but few of these palm-trees, and those without fruits, on the *Cape of Good Hope*; and in *Bengale*, without the tropicks, the same pears and apples as we have in *Holland*, but no coco or palm-trees; but at *Mesquetti* (a place in the kingdom of *Bengale*) and in *Persia* (near the tropicks) these trees grow, but bear no fruit except what is very insipid and dry, whereas, near the equinoctial, they prove larger and very juicy.

C H A P. VII.

TEN
RHYNE.*Of the different seasons of the year.*

THE cold does not exert its rigour here: hails are very rare, nor are the rivers congel'd with ice: the greatest extremity of the winter scarce ever rising here beyond a white frost.

For you must know, that we have not four, but only two seasons of the year (as well as over the *Indies*.) The winter is one continued rainy season, as the summer is one unintermittent draught, but both accompanied with violent storms: for at the same time we enjoy the pleasantness of the summer heat in *Holland*, they are continu-

ally afflicted with rains here; and whilst the sun there approaches to the equinoctial line, it recedes from thence, on this cape, by a continual course.

As for instance, if you pitch upon a certain place in *Holland*, as *Amsterdam*, the *Cape of Good Hope* is 17 deg. 51 min. beyond it in its latitude, but 11 deg. 30 min. beyond it in respect of its longitude. For in *October* (the beginning of the summer here) when the trees cast their leaves in *Holland*, the fields and gardens begin to be cover'd with grass and herbs.

C H A P. VIII.

Of the Hottentotes, the native inhabitants of this country.

THIS name belongs to different nations. The first are call'd *Essequaes*, who claim the first rank, as well in respect of their number as of their stature (being like *Demi-Giants*) and strength, which is the reason that they will quarrel with the *Namaequaes*, their neighbours, upon the least occasion. They inhabit the inland country for one hundred and fifty leagues, as far as it is known to us, they don't care to engage with us for fear of our firelocks: for the rest, they live after the same manner as the other inhabitants on the *Cape of Good Hope*. Our governor of the fort sends yearly certain persons among them, with some tobacco and some brass toys, which they exchange with them for cattle.

The second are the *Namaequaes*, who have this particular to themselves, that, whereas the other inhabitants cover their privities with fox or goat-skins, these make use of baskets, made of elephants teeth, for the same purpose. Their bucklers are proof against the strongest arrows. The third are the *Soufwas*, living most after the same

manner as the *Hottentotes* under our jurisdiction. The fourth, the *Sonquas*, who having been (for just occasions) despoiled of their cattle by our countrymen, have ever since dwell'd in the woods, and liv'd by hunting. Fifth, next to these dwell the *Gregoriques*; and next to them, sixth, the *Honnimas*, with whom we are always at enmity, by reason of the divers murders committed by them upon our countrymen. Their chieftain, nam'd *Honnimas*, was then very aged and lame, but a stout fellow. Seventh, those who inhabit next to the tent, and are conversant there, we make use of as auxiliaries against the other barbarians; their chieftain's name is call'd *Claes*, and his lieutenant-captain *Cuyper*, both bold and brave soldiers. I have often seen them with their ragged crew at their heels; and they scarce ever appear without an attendance of six or seven servants, yet would the last never refuse a piece of tobacco when offer'd him, which I us'd to do now and then, and to discourse with him in *French*.

C H A P. IX.

Of their neighbours.

IT'S unknown hitherto what sort of people borders upon the country of the *Hottentotes*; for what some have related of the *Negroes* (commonly call'd *Cassars*) is founded only upon hearsay. Thus I remember, that one of our corporals being sent out with six soldiers to view the utmost borders of the *Hottentotes*, told us that some of these *Hottentotes*, (whose names were not

heard of as yet among us) had informed him, that betwixt them and the said *Negroes* was a very broad river, which they us'd to pass in small canoes or boats, made out of the trunks of large trees hollow'd out, for the exchange of their commodities. But the *Hottentotes* have no settled limits amongst one another.

Just. I. 2.
says the
same of
the Sey-
thians.

TEN
RHYNE.
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## C H A P. X.

*Of the shape and make of their bodies.*

AS all mankind has a certain instinct or inclination (besides the disposition depending on his native country) so it is next to a miracle, that during so many ages, each nation has retain'd certain lineaments or features, which, as they are infallible signs of their dispositions, so they shew a vast difference betwixt several nations.

The *Hottentotes* being very much sunburnt, have generally a tawny skin, though some of them have a tolerable white skin; but blackness is the greatest beauty among them; for the rest they either strew a certain earth, of various colours, upon their heads, or mix the same with suet, and so besmear their hair and faces, which they look upon as a singular ornament; for there is a certain mountain here, which furnishes them with materials for divers colours, which, if rightly manag'd, would turn to a good account.

As many as I ever had opportunity to see, appear'd to me slender and tall shap'd, with strong knotted joints, and well set, with flat noses (such as most *Africans* and *Asiatics* have) and bended fore-heads; large thick lips, curl'd hair, woolly and cut or shav'd in different figures. They appear for the most part naked, having only a piece of leather, like an apron, hanging down before from their breasts.

The women are distinguish'd from the men by their deformity, being generally round shoulder'd, and have this peculiar, among all other nations, that out of their

privities you see two labels hanging down, like part of a man's yard (as now and then some of our *European* women are subject to the relaxation, or hanging out of the *Clitoris*) of these they are so proud, that if a stranger happens to come into one of their cabbins, or hutts (call'd *Krallen*) they will take aside the leathern apron, and shew them to the stranger. I remember that one of our chirurgeons opening the body of one of those women, that had hang'd herself, found these protuberancies quite relax'd, and hanging below her privities; two nipples in one of her breasts, and divers stones in her cawl. Upon this occasion our governor of the fort told us, that he had a stone taken out of one of the testicles of a man, which being as bright as a chrystal, he had it set in a ring; but one of the *Negro* kings being very desirous to have it, because he look'd upon it as a great antidote, he had presented him with it; which seems to intimate, that scarce any part of our bodies are without stones. They have this common with the *Negroes* and *Æthiopians*, that as they anoint themselves with oil, so these do with grease, especially their heads, upon which they strew the ashes of a certain herb, commonly call'd by them *Boucbou*, an office that belongs here to the wives to perform to their husbands. They slit their ear-lips cross-wise, in which they wear a piece of tobacco-pipe, and the better sort ear-rings or coral.

## C H A P. XI.

*Of their garments.*

THE use of woollen clothes is not known among them, though they are now and then pinch'd with cold, against which they preserve themselves with ox and sheep skins, or of wild beasts. This garment, both of the gentlemen and plebeians, is nothing else but a leathern vest, reaching down to their knees (call'd by them *Karos*, and us'd instead of an under-bed) the only thing to defend themselves with against the cold. These are made sometimes of cows or sheep skins, sometimes of panther or goat skins, with this difference only, that the common people cover their privities with a piece of ox skin, the gentlemen do it with the skin of an otter. In this point they seem to follow the footsteps of

*Hercules*, who whilst he dwelt upon earth, and convers'd among nations, never made use but of one single skin for his garment, and one club. During the rainy season, they wear on their heads a kind of hat, or peak'd cap of leather, fitted close to their foreheads, and reaching down below their eyes. About their necks they hang a pouch, wherein they keep the heads of their arrows, and sometimes their tobacco. Their arms, both above and below the elbow, they adorn with rings of elephants teeth, on which sometimes they fasten their pouches. For the rest, they appear naked, except that some few wear a kind of bullocks hides under their feet, which in case of necessity are boil'd or broil'd, and serve them for food.

See *Justin*.

The women's vests, as well as their aprons (which cover their privities) are made of sheep skins, they being more solicitous to cover the same in publick than the men. On their heads they wear such another peak'd cap, like the men; shoes they never use, and instead of stockings wrap about their legs some dry osier, or dry'd guts, or perhaps the shreds of a bullock's hide.

The chief ornament they delight in most is, to shave the hair of their heads (like

as we do our shagged dogs) into several figures of their fuller half-moon or stars. On their foreheads they wear coral-beads, notch'd shells, brass money, the bones of cows, twisted hair, &c. All, unless those that are very poor, have about their necks collars or necklaces of coral, glass or brass beads, which they exchange with the *Dutch* for their cattle. About their elbows they commonly wear rings of ivory, and about their breasts bracelets of brass.

## C H A P. XII.

*Of their dwelling.*

THEIR dwellings are only little huts (call'd *Krallen*) for as they are forc'd to change their dwelling places, for the better convenience of feeding their cattle in a desert place, so they cannot have any fix'd habitations. Their cabbins have but one entrance, arch'd on the top; the coverings and walls being made of the leaves of the *African Sword-Grass* (the head whereof they make use of instead of bread) twisted so closely together as to keep out the most severe rains and cold. The largest posts, rafters and laths, are made of the boughs or twigs of trees. Every man digs a hole in his hut, wherein he throws a sheep skin to wrap himself in, which serves instead of a bed, wherein he is laid in the same posture as a child in the womb; the wife lies in another hole next to his side.

In the huts they now and then entertain fourteen or fifteen persons at once; they commonly rank them on the hills in the fields, or near the banks of the rivers, among the trees, in a kind of circle or inclosure, at five or six paces distance from one another, wherein they preserve their cattle, rather against the attempts of the wild beasts than an enemy.

When they are to change their habitations, the captain gives them the signal by a great fire; the women manage all the household-stuff and other utensils, which they put in leathern bags, and carry them upon their shoulders; the huts they load upon the backs of the oxen, which serve for the same use when their husbands go into the wars to carry their baggage.

## C H A P. XIII.

*Of their household-stuff.*

TO give yourself the true idea of their household-stuff, you must call to mind the primitive ages, when *Crates of Thebes*, gave all he had to the people, changing the most pleasant gardens, and well peopled towns, for a satchel and staff, the only equipage belonging to the *Cynicks*, and now to the *Hottentotes*, who in this point tread exactly in the footsteps of *Diogenes* and *Antisthenes*; these inconsiderable implements being by them in as much esteem as the imperial robes to an emperor, a crown to a king, the mitre to a bishop, or the augural staff to the ancient soothsayers; and as *Diogenes* (when the was contending with the great king of *Macedon*, about the greatness of his empire) gloried in

his bag and staff, instead of the other's scepter and thrones, so these *Hottentotes* are absolutely contented with their mean condition. However, they make use of drinking cups of shells gather'd on the sea-shore, or of tortoise-shells, after they have eaten the flesh; they call them *Sirigoes*, and roast them in the ashes, or exchange them for tobacco; for want of these they drink fair water out of their hands, like as the *Cynick* did. Their meat they dress sometimes, by roasting it upon a tile, sometimes under the ashes, and oftentimes eat it raw; some of the better sort use earthen pots and vessels, or pieces of trees hollow'd, in which they put their meat.

Call'd  
Hotten-  
totes  
bread.

See Aqi-  
lius in his  
Apol.



## C H A P. XIV.

*Of their genius and temper.*

THEIR innate barbarity, their idle and solitary life, join'd with the want of knowledge and true virtues, makes them prone to all manner of vices, as levity, inconstancy, lust, deceits, perfidiousness and most shameful debaucheries. They are so bloody in their inclinations as to exercise their cruelties upon their vanquish'd enemies, after their death, by striking their arrows and weapons into their dead carcases; they are so much addicted to theft, that one neighbour does not stick to enrich himself by stealing the cattle of another; and as in reference to their chastity they have quite abandon'd the foot-steps of their ancestors in the time of *Scipio the African*; their lasciviousness is always accompany'd by the most unaccountable slothfulness; for they neither sow nor reap, neither trouble themselves about what they shall eat or drink the next day, but wallowing almost in their own dirt; therefore if you have occasion to imploy any of them, you must take them when they are hungry, and be sure to perform your promise. Their inordinate way of living and lust, make them grow old before their time, and makes their bodies crazy and weak; and as they keep no regular account of their age, so nothing certain is to be determined of the length of their lives; for what their disorderly way of living takes from them on one side, their forc'd sobriety (for want of necessaries) makes amends for on the other hand, living for the most part upon herbs; however it is, the general opinion is, that scarce ever any of them live above a hundred years.

They are so greedy of tobacco, from their cradles, that children before they come to the age of eight months (as I have often seen myself) smoke it; and most of them

(tho' otherwise tame enough) will work a whole day for a piece of this weed.

As they look upon the women as despicable creatures, so they are not allow'd to eat any beef or fresh milk, but only mutton, and that very sparingly; they are, nevertheless, nice in their palate, and remember a great while what has pleas'd them or not; for the rest, they live without fear, contented with their own, whether they be rich or poor in cattle.

Among all these vices, they retain one good quality, that is, if one of their neighbour has, by mischance, lost his own cattle, they will stock him again, perhaps with a calf and a sheep. They are not easily removed from their own opinion; gold and silver they don't value at the same rate as other men do; for where there is no use, there is no greediness after money; and ignorance of vice is more prevailing than all the precepts of virtue; an instance, that a mild climate often produces very rugged spirits, tho' they are very crafty with all their ignorance.

See Justin.

Whilst I tarried here, I had the opportunity to talk sometimes with three women of the *Hottentotes*; one named *Eve*, was a civil person, and would discourse very rationally; as she was well versed in the *Dutch* and *Portuguese* languages, so I learned from her divers secrets relating to this nation; the second, named *Cornelia*, being turn'd Christian, and married to a *Dutch* surgeon, did lead a very scandalous life, and therefore was several times banish'd the fort; the third, named *Sarah*, was the same I told you before to have been dissected by our surgeon, having hang'd herself, because a cursed *Dutchman* had debauch'd her, under pretence of marriage, but left her afterwards.

## C H A P. XV.

*Of their manners.*

AS these barbarous pagans live without laws, so they only follow their instinct without controul. Their manner of sitting is just like the posture of a child in the womb, bending their heads betwixt both knees, which they embrace with their arms. They despise the female sex; mourn three days for their deceased friends, which both

sexes spend in terrible howlings and lamentations about the huts of the deceased. They bury their dead in a hole under ground, and cover it with a stone. In copulation they chuse to perform it from behind, the woman lying upon one side, something higher than the man, scarce differing in this point from the brutes.



## C H A P. XVI.

*Their way of living.*TEN  
RHYNE.  


\* Of this there are divers sorts describ'd in another treatise.

\* Call'd wild figs by the Dutch.

AS nature prompts them to luxury, so their poverty forces them to temperance; hence it is, that they have no varieties at their tables; but instead of bread, make use of the *sword-grass* \* which the women dig out of the fens; for the women take all the pains here, they provide food, they look after the house or hut, and after the cattle, &c. Upon any extraordinary occasion, of a wedding, lying-in of a woman, or such like, they will perhaps kill an ox, a sheep (if they can't light upon such venison) for to entertain their friends; \* the leaves of the *sea-green* of different kinds, are also much in use among them; for the rest they feed upon cows and sheep's milk, which the women gather early in the morning, and make very good butter of it. They flea a bird with feathers and all, then turning the skin with the feathers upward, they tie it to a stick or cane, and therewith stir the milk, till the serous part of the milk is separated from the oleagenous substance; the butter-milk they eat, and sometimes wash their hands with.

Cheese they neither love, nor know how to make; their ordinary liquors for ordinary drinking, are milk and water; they

feed upon no fishes but what have scales, and consequently no eels, nor any of the testaceous kind, such as oysters, &c. The fish they most delight in, is a certain sweet kind of *bream* \* with very thick scales; \* Call'd the *Hottentotes* fish, by the Dutch. they are all, without distinction of age or sex, such admirers of tobacco, that, tho' they are at variance with one another, they will hand about the tobacco-pipe without exceptions.

This country produces a certain kind of *African arva* root (or *lake stobbin*) of so venomous and corroding a quality, that it not only bites upon, but also blisters the tongue. These *Hottentotes* have a way of separating the pernicious sulphur by the fire, which binds the volatile corroding salt; and thus to render it fit for food: The hedge-hogs (which are strangely shaped here) mightily delight in this root; they not only feed upon the dry'd and powder'd skins of beasts (after they have used them a considerable time instead of shoes) but also upon excrements mixed with some other things; this they do without the least distinction of civility, not excepting even their king, the head of a crew of miserable beggarly wretches, as almost all the *Negroes* are.

## C H A P. XVII.

*Their manner of making war.*

Nothing is more barbarous than this country, where the rugged climate, and rocky mountains seem to have produced men of their own kind, who applying all their thoughts to mischief and fraud, are of a far different temper from the *Europeans*, being very prone to quarrel, or to beguile a man upon very frivolous occasions. Their arms (besides the leathern jacket which serves instead of a shield) are bows and arrows; these are of two sorts; for these call'd by them *Assagayas*, are a kind of dart which they know how to manage with such dexterity, that at forty paces distance they will exactly hit the mark: The other is a kind of javelin, which throwing twice or thrice round their heads, they strike with vast strength into their enemies. They have a way of poisoning these weapons in the following manner: They take a viper or some other venomous serpent; which being enraged, they put the point of the weapon into its mouth, and tie it for fear of falling out; this done, they, to increase the virulency of the poison, cut off the head of the

viper, under whose jaws the bladders, which are the reservoirs of the poison, lie conceal'd; this poison may be taken without danger, but if communicated by the sting of the creature, is mortal, as many of our people have found to their cost. The best remedy against it is, to beat the affected place with a small stick, and afterwards to suck it.

Their chief strength lies in a surprize; having been taught by the lions (which are very numerous here) that it is safest to appear without their lurking holes in bad weather; when our fire-arms are generally out of order, they follow their foot-steps, and lurking among the woods, send their darts from thence among our people; but if they happen to meet them in clear weather, and in the open fields, they set up a huge cry, and immediately retreat to the woods, or thorny hills, from whence they may fight at a distance, by the help of their bows and arrows.

If they happen to be much superior in number, they fall on with terrible cries, like

TEN RHYNE. like, are made good by way of retaliation. They have one peculiar custom, if a young lad happens to fall sick, they kill a fat ox, which they feast upon, but the paunch and other entrails they hang about the patient's

neck, till being putrify'd, and falling off of course, they must be devour'd by some old man or other. Their successions are limited by the ordinary law of inheritance, especially among the *Essequas*.

## C H A P. XXIII.

*Of their marriages.*

SUCH as have an intention to marry together, having obtained their parents consent, apply themselves to their captain, who giving his consent, they marry at pleasure, tho' sometimes all their subsistence consists only in a club, an ox to carry their hut upon, a milch cow, and perhaps ten or twelve sheep, some whereof certainly are kill'd for the wedding feast. The richer fort marry as many wives as they think fit,

and in case of dislike, divorce themselves. These commonly kill two or three oxen, and a many sheep for the feast; the flesh, after it is parted from the skin, they expose a little in the air, and then boil it in its own fat in their earthen pots, the guts being roasted in the ashes; they treat their friends with these dainties, and spend the day merrily, according to their own way.

## C H A P. XXIV.

*Of the education of their children.*

WHEN their child-bearing women have an easy labour, they manage all the natural ligaments with sufficient skill, and without much difficulty; but in case they are afflicted with a hard labour, they make use of a certain herb, indued with the virtue of expelling the fruit; the true name or knowledge of which I could never learn from them, neither by intreaties nor promises, they alledging that they were strictly forbidden to discover it. Their time of lying-in is soon over, and they bring up their babes after a very ugly manner; for after they have kept them about two or three

weeks at home, without any swathing clouts, they tie them to their backs; and at four months of age they begin to smook tobacco, and in four months more they put them upon their feet; then they have a jacket given them (as I have been informed by some who lived five years there.) At the age of eight or nine years they begin to be accustomed to the use of arms; their parents generally affix a piece of meat to a post, which they must hit with their arrows before they are permitted to eat the least victuals.

## C H A P. XXV.

*Of their handicraft trades.*

YOU may as well look for jewels in a hog-sty, as artisans among this barbarous generation; however, they have a kind of taylors among them, who sew their skins (their ordinary apparel) with needles of iron (for, as I am informed, they have very good mines of that metal) or ivory, their thread being nothing but the twisted nerves of beasts. And considering that they shave their heads in divers figures, it is manifest, that besides taylors and barbers, they are also artisans in iron-work; these are the

main things they glory in with so much self-conceit, that when I once shew'd one of their captains a very well-wrought watch, and shew'd him the use thereof, he told me, *That questionless the Hottentotes could make such another.* They have also a certain musical instrument, of the same shape and use as our pipes. Some of them pretend also to magick, and would make us believe that they can draw the fish to the bait with the sound of their pipes.

## C H A P. XXVI.

*Of their physick.*

IF we are obliged to the brutes for the discovery of several wholesome remedies; as to the dogs for emetics, to the *Egyptian*

bird *Ibis* for clysters, for phlebotomy to the sea-horse, for the use of ditany or garden ginger to the goats, of the swallow-wort to the swallows,



See Homer  
b. in probl.  
l. 1.

swallows, of fennel to the snake, of the narrow small row leav'd plantain to the roads, of the rue to the weasel, of the origanum to the stork, of the ground-ivy to the wild boar, and of the use of the artichoke to the stag; what wonder is it, if these *Hottentotes*, tho' never so brutish, have their own way of curing distempers; I don't say all distempers, but like *Podalirius* and *Machaon*, in the *Trojan* war, who were chiefly employ'd about surgery, if we may believe *Celsus*. Suction and unction are two chief, if not the only remedies used among the *Hottentotes*; their main dread being from the poison of arrows or venomous beasts: If they are wounded by them, they beat the afflicted part with a small stick, till it be deprived of all sense; then they scarify and suck it till the blood follows. This way of curing (which *Severinus* in his *Chirurgie* recommends as efficacious) is different, according to the different natures of the poison, and according to the different continuance of the beating and suction, it being certain that the scorpions, who are not so venomous here as in *Spain*, *Italy* and *France*, don't sting so deep as the creature they call the *Thouland-feet*. If you squeeze his tail just above the sting, it emits a bright drop out of his crooked sting, unless he has stung some body not long before, which is not much more hurtful than the sting of our bees; his sting is not very soon replenish'd with the poisonous matter, and when he stings it is as if you were touch'd by a stone; but the *Thouland-feet* being very corrosive, communicates very sharp poison: Of the vipers we have

had occasion to speak before. If the wound proves malignant, or there be the least suspicion of a gangreen, they cut it out with the sharp points of their arrows; and if it has infected a member, they cut it off immediately. All contusions they cure by unctions (with beef or mutton suet, for want of any other ointment) afterwards scarify the part and suck it till they draw the blood thro' the skin. The rheumatism they cure in the same manner, except that they expose the part (after it is well anointed with the suet) before the fire, that the particles thereof may force out the morbidick matter, by their being attenuated before the fire, and then they go to sucking. Among the vegetables they are acquainted with very few physical plants, but those of the best, which as I told you before, I cannot learn from them at any rate. This makes me admire how some can boast of I know not what secrets they have attained to among so treacherous a generation as the *Hottentotes*. They have a way of curing the cholick by a certain aromatick root, almost in an instant. They also stamp a kind of date (as I suppose) called by them *daeba*, which they afterwards make into a paste, and being dry'd in the sun, use it as most of the *Mabometans* do the *anison* or *opium*, and has the same effect upon them. They never cut the navel strings of new born children, but only tie it close till it falls off itself. This is all I was able to learn of a certain woman of the *Hottentotes*, the rest being so cunning as not to discover any thing of this nature.

## C H A P. XXVII.

### Of their language.

IF you should hear them speak, or rather chatter, in their own dialect, you would certainly believe, that you were gone back to the *Pythagorean* age, when the birds used to converse together, by way of discourse; it being certain, that their speaking is only an inarticulate noise, and no real voice, every word ending with a kind of whistle, by the tongue's clapping so close to the palate; whence some have judg'd, that by this shrill noise, occasion'd by the touching of the palate, they did express their vowels, whereas they pronounced the consonants much lower in the throat, and framed them together by drawing together their lips in an orbicular figure. Certain it is, that they can't converse with any other nation in their own language; for all the time that the *Dutch* have been settled here, there was never yet one *European* who could attain to any perfection in their lan-

guage, tho' many of the *Hottentotes*, that dwell near the fort, have learned a kind of broken *Dutch*, differing from ours chiefly in the termination of words, which commonly end in *kom*, as *tabaqkom*, tobacco; *kortom*, a share or portion; *borom*, to hear. As they are but barren in roots, or original words, so they abound in epithets: Thus they call all sorts of birds *courcour*, with the addition of a proper epithet; as for instance, *camma courcour*, a water-fowl, whether it be a duck, a cormorant or sea-gull; *sickom* (a *Belgicism*, such as they frequently use among them) *courcour*, a young bird; *grotom courcour*, a large bird; by which, however, in a strict sense, they understand the *ostrich*. They have also learn'd some words by their former correspondence with other nations; as for instance, from the *Engliss* the word *doggues* signifying a dog.



TEN

RHYNE. The original Hottentote words, which occur  
at present to my memory, are,

*Onkay*, a Dutchman; *gamma*, a lion; *acqua*, a horse; *ouka*, a wolf; *nabba*, a rhinoceros; *goedi*, a sheep; *boeba*, an ox or cow; *debitia*, heifers; *sirigoes*, tortoises; *dacha*, the name of an hypnotick plant; *dini*, honey; *chou*, air; *ecy*, fire; *kou*, thunder; *doudou*, the road; *ey*, glass-beads; *equa*, wood; *kiny*, a club; *sou*, a pot; *bouchou*, the ashes of plants.

Some corrupt Dutch words, are,

*Boemakem goet*, gun-powder; *boebaisbi-er*, milk; *karos*, a vest or waistcoat; *kral-*

*len*, a hut or cabin; and many more of the same kind.

Of their numbers.

*Gui*, one; *tem*, two; *nona*, three; *acka*, four; *corro*, five; *guichi*, six, &c.

These they multiply by the addition of others, by joining them with other words, which if they should be heard by any foreigner, he will be ready to confess, as well as I, that they are so odd as not to be describ'd in writing.

William Ten Rhyne.



A DRAUGHT































































































